



THE STRIKER STATEMENT

Issue # 33 OIF

8 January 2003



Editor

If there is anyone who would like to receive this by email simply drop me a line and I will add you to the distribution list. ted.m.preister@us.army.mil

CPT Ted M. Preister

BCT Rear-D Commander

HELLRAISERS



CPT Workman and his wife, Carrie, welcomed a new baby boy to their family on 12 December. Jack Michael was 8 lbs. 10 ounces and 21 inches long. CPT Workman made it home on leave just in time to be there for the delivery!

GHOST

The BRT continues to distinguish it self in the true cavalry standard. The holidays were a busy time for the troop. Between conducting combat operations, meeting David Lettermen, riding mules and firing gunnery, we barely had enough time to open presents! Aside from being away from our loved ones, the troop enjoyed a festive Christmas. A special thank you to our FRG and extended family for all the care packages you sent. With gifts including footballs, baseballs cds and even cd players, the Troop is truly appreciative.

The presents from home were not the only Christmas surprise the Troop enjoyed though. David Lettermen along with Paul Schaffer and even the assistant Biff dropped by on Christmas Eve to see the Troop. We all shook hands and shared a few jokes with the Late night host. He especially enjoyed our mule, "Bill".



Shortly after New Years the Troop deployed to Butler Range for our Troop Gunnery. Like always the Troop literally blew away everything the range had to offer. On the convoy live fire exercise the Troop set a new course record by firing 8,986 rounds in the 20 minute exercise. We truly achieved fire power superiority. In fact when we asked to conduct a night fire run we were denied since we destroyed all of the targets!

The Troop is back now in Baghdad continuing the fight. We are all looking forward to redeploying and reuniting our families and loved ones. Before closing I would like to include our most recent promotion: CPL Rudy Alvarado was promoted on 21 DEC. CPL Alvarado is the gunner for LT Dowd's vehicle and now an outstanding NCO. Again thanks for all of your thoughts and prayers, we will be home soon.

CPT Logan, "Ghost 6"

CONQUERORS

Conquerors Reconstruct Schools in Baghdad

By: CPT Charles H. Steward Jr., Task Force 1-35 AR, PAO

Reconstruction in Iraq encompasses a myriad of tasks, from providing power in homes and facilities to establishing governing agencies. One important issue, however, is the re-establishment of the school system for the children of Iraq. Task Force 1-35



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Armor has been contributing to the re-construction of the school system in Central Baghdad by helping the Iraqi people to renovate many schools that had been neglected by the former regime. This project is focused on giving the "future of Iraq" the opportunity to get a quality education.

Like most children around the world, the children of Baghdad are preparing to attend school in the fall. In support of this Task Force 1-35 has been working with local contractors, Neighborhood Advisory Councils, Non-governmental Organizations (NGO), and the Ministry of Education to ensure schools are prepared to start the school year. The unit is ensuring that contractors are fixing power, water, and sewage issues within the schools. The unit is additionally ensuring that contractors are renovating the buildings, playgrounds and parking lots for most of the schools targeted for renovation.



CPT Cundy attends a ribbon cutting ceremony at one of the schools in his sector. One of the students of the school presented CPT Cundy with a bouquet of flowers during the ceremony.

Master Sergeant Darren K. Woodland, the task force Civil Military Operations officer, has been instrumental to the process of reconstructing the school system in the task force area of operations. MSG Woodland helped to make all coordination with each contractor to begin work on the schools. He also helped coordinate with NGOs and other agencies linked to the Ministry of Education to ensure new books, furniture, and school supplies would be available for the school year.

The Conqueror Battalion, 1-35 Armor, is overseeing the reconstruction of 20 schools in the task force area of responsibility. While there is plenty

of work left to be done, the people of Central Baghdad are grateful for the efforts of coalition forces to restore the education system in Iraq. It is one of the many parts of the reconstruction process that will shape the future for all of Iraq.

Charlie Company (Belated) Birthday Wishes to:

1 Jan SFC Leija

3 Jan Cassandra Bahret

3 Jan SPC Morales

GATORS

To work in the 2-6 IN Commo Shop, you must be three things: adroit, resourceful, and nocturnal. For more than seven months, the commo section has played a vital, behind the scenes role in the everyday happenings of the Gator Task Force. Whether keeping communications throughout the 2-6 IN Task Force operational, providing internet and phone access for the soldiers, or maintaining a sufficient stockpile of spare parts and batteries, the commo shop is always busy, and on the move.

After suffering the loss of a few personnel to Baumholder for PCSing and ETSing, things are hectic, but still under control largely because of direction of SFC Luis Soto and his experienced Team Chief, three year 2-6 IN veteran, SGT Jarman. Together, they and PV2 Vancura are the backbone for communications in the Task Force. All equipment, spare parts, batteries, and answers on commo issues come from these three hard working, dedicated individuals.

On the MWR front, the addition of the Gator Internet/Phone Café in the BN headquarters is probably one of the most visible and high profile impacts commo has made for the soldiers of 2-6 IN. Since August, soldiers have enjoyed the 30 computers/5 phones cyber café so much that it is a daily routine for roughly two hundred soldiers. It is often busy, and if you come at night, expect a wait. The latest MWR project for commo is arranging video-conferences (VTCs) between Baghdad and Baumholder, Germany for soldiers and their families. So far, the program is in its infancy, but as it grows into a regularly scheduled event, more and more soldiers will be able to participate in the program.

1LT Lau





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THUNDER

Let me first say, Happy New Year to all of you and may GOD continue to bless you more this upcoming year. Now that December has finally wound down, we begin yet another month and entirely New Year. December was a month of times for us. We had some good times bringin in the Christmas Holiday with each other. We had some unfortunate times with the lost of SPC Chris "Doc" Holland who was Killed In Action and 1LT Brent Odom who was Wounded In Action. They are truly missed and we thank them for their commitment and sacrifice.



The battery set up a 5 foot tall Christmas Tree in the TV room.

and I greatly appreciate all that you do, Thank You! We are truly grateful for the gifts and cards of love for the Christmas Holiday from all of you.

The battery reached the midway-point at the end of October, and now the time to return home lingers closer and closer every day. We now look forward to some upcoming milestones that will mean that we are closer to our return to Baumholder. Some of those milestones include the arrival of our replacement units in the near future. The advanced party will be arriving within the next few months, and the main body will follow shortly after. As the new faces arrive, it will be hard not to start a countdown to the time when we return. Continue to pray for all of our American Soldiers, it really means a lot. See you in 4 months ☺ GOD Bless You All.

GATORS!!!

There has also been some rewarding times with the promotion of several Gator Soldiers to Corporal: CPLs Santos, Turay, Watson M., Toribio, Giarraputo and Johnston. This month has brought some committed times, with the reenlistments of several Gator Soldiers raising their hands once more to stay in the Army and serve their country. We've had some "it's about time" times with several Gators' returning home for leave, and some have returned home to PCS to other duty stations. Overall, it has been a time of reflection and thanks for the past month and year. Most of all it has been a "Thank GOD" time we are almost home.

I would be remised if I didn't thank the ladies and SSG Summers back home for your sacrifices, dedication and commitment to your husbands, Single Soldiers and the battery. Believe me, we would not be able to accomplish our mission here, if you were not accomplishing your mission there. 1SG Smith





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PIONEERS

As predicted, December was a very busy month for the B/47th FSB Bulldogs! Although the holidays focused everyone's attention to the end of the month, December was mainly filled with training events. Beginning in the first week of December, B/47th sent key personnel to Butler range to participate in a Convoy Live Fire Exercise with HHC/40th Engineers. 1LT Miles, 2LT Freedman, SSG Harris, SSG Yealey, SGT Barlow, SGT Bardon, SPC Mister, SPC Acevedo, SPC Fairconature, and PFC Brown came back to Baghdad with a great training experience and set about devising a plan to share their training with the rest of the soldiers in the company and the battalion. The LTs worked with 2LT Hawker from C/47th to develop a two-week training plan that culminated in convoy lane training near the BSA. Ironically, the weather turned cold, rainy and muddy on the day before the convoy lanes were run, so our soldiers got to train in the mud – just as if they were conducting the training in Baumholder or Grafenwoer! On 6 and 7 January, the remainder of the battalion will travel to Butler Range to conduct a Convoy Live Fire Exercise in order to build on the training that they conducted here in Baghdad.

The Bulldogs also conducted crew-served weapons ranges at Butler Range at the end of December, improving our expertise with the M2 .50 caliber machine gun, the M203 grenade launcher, and the MK19 automatic grenade launcher. SFC Collins, SSG McRoberts, SGT Willis, and SPC Kosal worked hand-in-hand with NCOs from the 40th Engineers in order to ensure everyone of our soldiers qualified.

Despite all of the work we did training in December, we also managed to have some fun. Because of the holiday season, there were many many celebrities that came to visit troops deployed to Iraq. We had Robin Williams show up here and sign autographs and make fun of CSM Tobin's extreme haircut. We also had the USO show with Sergeant Major of the Army Jack Tilley, Al Franken, the Redskins Cheerleaders, Mark Wills, Darryl Worley, and several other TV and music stars come to the Airport. On the same day, the WWE show came to another part of BLAP. MANY Bulldogs went to the wrestling show and ended up on National TV! It was fun to see these entertainers and it made us feel pretty special that they came here and shared their holidays with us, but none of them could compare to spending the holidays at home, which we all look forward to sharing with our families next year.

Now that January is shaping up to be as busy as December, we are turning our thoughts to preparing our equipment for redeployment back home. Thanks for your continued support and strength.

-“Modern Bulldogs, we work hard so you don’t have to!”-

The convoy moves through the muddy route at Butler Range during the Convoy Live Fire Exercise with HHC/40 Engineers.



The Bulldogs go through an After Action Review of their run through the Convoy Live Fire Exercise.



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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER **"Redeemed By His Blood"**

1 PETER 1:18-19

knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold . . . but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

Some Christians shy away from talking about blood -- but not the Bible. In fact, the Bible presents blood as an integral and honored part of Christian teaching. Blood represents life, and Jesus freely gave His life to redeem you.

COLOSSIANS 1:13-14

He has delivered us from the power of darkness and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

The blood of Jesus -- representing the giving of His life -- was the payment for your freedom. You should give bold testimony to the power of the precious Blood of Jesus. It is what has set you free! Sin opens the door for the devil. But Jesus' Blood cleanses us from all sin and closes the door of opportunity to the devil.

1 JOHN 1:9

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Jesus' Blood enables us to stand before God as if sin had never existed. We have no other plea for entrance into God's presence but the precious Blood of the Lamb.

HEBREWS 10:19

Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus...

The blood of Jesus represents all that God accomplished for you in His great redemption.

We should display the token of Jesus' Blood over the boundaries of our lives -- anywhere the devil might have an opening -- by releasing our faith in the sufficiency of that precious Blood through words.

SAY THIS: I am set free by the Blood of Jesus Christ.

BAUMHOLDER INFORMATION

January

- 10 **Vegas-Style Variety Show**, 8 pm at the Rheinlander—No Charge!!
- 16 USAREUR Training Holiday
- 19 Martin Luther King Federal Holiday
LN Agreement Day
- 27 Town Hall
- 28 Deployment Support Group, 9am LINKS, 10am

DoDDS CALENDAR

- 19 Jan No school, Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 22 Jan End of Second Quarter
- 23 Jan Teacher Work Day (No School!)
- 16 Feb No School, Presidents' Day

RHEINLANDER EVENTS

- Family Night- Pizza, pasta, and salad buffet Wednesdays, 18-2100, ONLY \$4 for kids under 12!
 - Internet only 9 cents/minute in the Cyber Zone!!
- POC:** Amy Gee at DSN 485-7507

CHILD & YOUTH SERVICES EVENTS

- 8 Jan – Job Ready for Teens at Teen Café
- 17 Jan – Teen BBQ at Teen café at 17:00
- 17 Jan – Parents Night Out at Smith
- 17 Jan – Service Project for 9th-12th graders: CDC outside clean-up, Time: 1400

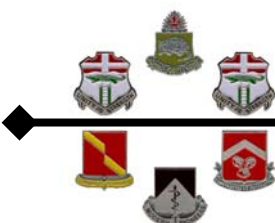
COMMUNITY RECREATION DIVISION

POC: Jeffrey Milkes at DSN 485-6352

The Rec Emporium will soon have a new name – the Rolling Hills Athletic Club. Membership fees will also change – one price will cover the entire facility.

- **Recreation Emporium Open House!** With FREE Pool and Fitness Center! Jan 11 from: 1200 – 1700

- **Water Aerobics at the Rec Emporium**
MWF at 12:00; T Th at 18:30





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RE-INTEGRATION AFTER DEPLOYMENT

ACS is offering a class on Wednesdays that focuses on issues after the deployment. Free child care is available, and lunch is provided. Please call 485-8188 or 06783-68188 to reserve your seat!

BAUMHOLDER EDUCATION CENTER

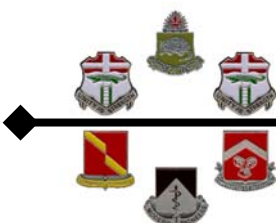
- **Registration is now available for all Term 3 classes!**
- **ASEP Class for NCO's**
Preparing the NCO-ER 12-16 January 04
- **REMINDER: Army Emergency Relief (AER)**
Spouse Education Assistance Program
AER will pay up to 50% of an active duty spouse's tuition at local colleges!
- New financial aid forms for 2003-04 now available.

Visit the Education Center in building 8332 or call 485-7557

www.baumholder.army.mil/education

ACS

There will be a German cooking class in the ACS kitchen on 20 January from 11:00-13:00. Space is limited so call 485-8188 or 06783-68188 to reserve your spot!



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